A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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By Dr. Charles F. Brooks
of Clark University

THE WINTER OF 1926-27

Winter set in early, November being marked by very cold weather and much snow in the Mid-west and South, and mild weather with excessive rainfall in the far west and locally in the Northeast. Early December was exceptionally cold in the North and Northeast, at which time the winter's general snow cover was established. Though the weather was moderate in the second and fourth weeks, the mean temperature was well below the average in this region. Extraordinarily persistent and heavily flooding rains fell over a broad belt from Texas and Oklahoma to West Virginia, causing the Cumberland River at Nashville to reach its highest known stage.

January averaged above normal over practically the entire United States and southern Canada, the southern Rockies and northern plains having the greatest temperature excess. The severe cold waves of the Mid-west and East, sweeping even through Texas and Florida, were short-lived. Excessive rainfall occurred from Oklahoma to southern Ohio, mostly falling in the nearly continuous rainy spell and thaw of January 18-24, during which poriod the southeastern and northern interior, semi-permanent highs seemed to be deadlocked. Their winds of diverse temperatures continued to meet andoverturn in this belt where such heavy rains were produced in consequence. The continental high won, with a tremendous flood of cold air and record-breaking high pressures in the East.

The first half of February was extraordinarily mild and generally dry, the zest of winter being carried only by the rapidly moving storms. The second half of the month was noteworthy for the great storm period that brought deluges and heavy snows from Pacific to Atlantic.

SCIENCE SERVICE,
21st and B Sts.,
Washington, D. C.